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*Diego GÁRATE MAIDAGÁN** and *Alejandro GARCÍA MORENO***. * CREAP Cartailhac-TRACES-UMR 5608. Maison de la Recherche. Université de Toulouse-Le Mirail. 5, allées Antonio Machado. 31058 TOULOUSE CEDEX 9. ** Instituto Internacional de Investigaciones Prehistóricas de Cantabria. Universidad de Cantabria. Edif. Interfacultativo. Avda. Los Castros, s/n. 39006 Santander. Correo-e: cuevadelnino@dipualba.es

Critical review and time-space contextualisation for the Niño's cave Palaeolithic rock art (Ayna, Albacete)

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Despite its marginal location far away from classical Paleolithic sites clusters, El Niño cave have been usually ignored probably because of its complicated access and apparent isolation. This situation used to devalue the importance of this site to understand specific historical questions such as the Paleolithic settlement in the Meseta or the definition of culture territories through Paleolithic art. Because of that, we decide to carry out a review of El Niño Paleolithic paintings, which conclusions are exposed within this paper.

Key words: Paleolithic Rockwall Art. Chronology. Meseta. Cave. El Niño.

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*María TERESA BOSCHÍN** y *Analía ANDRADE***. * Centro Nacional Patagónico. Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas de la República Argentina. Correo-e: mboschin@cenpat.edu.ar. ** Centro Nacional Patagónico. Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas de la República Argentina. Correo-e: andrade@cenpat.edu.ar

Peopling of Northern Argentinean Patagonia during Late Holocene: paleoenvironments and social imperatives

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In this paper, the role of central plateaus –dated at *ca.* 3500 AP– in the peopling of the southern end of America that started at around *ca.* 13000 AP, is discussed. A revision and updating of the archaeological and paleoclimatic evidences and their absolute chronologies were made. To Mid Holocene, the space that we defined as the *periphery of central plateaus* –Atlantic coast, Colorado, Limay and Chubut rivers– was conformed. During Late Holocene, the inland sites were characterized by a progressively increase in the density of archaeological remains, with dense occupations towards upper levels or the final settlement stage on the Plateaus. An inland Norpatagonia peopling model is proposed, based on which of the peripheral population loci could provoke exploratory and migratory movements, and paleoenvironmental and social explanations are considered.

Key words: Argentina. Northern Patagonia. Peopling. Archaeology. Paleoenvironments.

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Gabriel GARCÍA ATIÉNZAR. Universidad de Alicante. Correo-e: G.Garcia@ua.es

The archaeological context of Levantine rock Art in Campo de Hellín (Albacete)

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This work explores the knowledge of human settlement and the Levantine rock Art in a specific geographical context. The spatial reading of these elements allows to present hypotheses on human communities that occupied lands of the Campo de Hellín (Albacete) during the first phases of Holocene and how they built a landscape that reflects their social, economic and symbolic needs.

Key words: Levantine rock Art. Neolithic. Landscape. Territory. Hellín.

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*Javier FERNÁNDEZ LÓPEZ DE PABLO**, *Magdalena GÓMEZ PUCHE***, *Carlos FERRER GARCÍA**** y *Riker YLL AGUIRRE*****. * Investigador Ramón y Cajal (MICINN). Institut Català de Paleocologia Humana i Evolució Social. C/ Escorxador, s/n. 43003 Tarragona. Correo-e: javifldp@gmail.com. ** Universitat de València. *** Servicio de Investigación Prehistórica. Diputación de Valencia. **** Área de Prehistòria. Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV). Avinguda de Catalunya, 35. 43002 Tarragona

El Arenal de la Virgen (Villena, Alicante), the first lacustrine Notches and Denticulates Mesolithic site in the Iberian Peninsula: cultural and chrono-stratigraphical data and palaeoenvironmental context

Zephyrus, LXVIII, July-December 2011, pp. 87-114

Fieldwork carried out in the prehistoric site of Arenal de la Virgen (Villena, Alicante) have provided thorough evidences for the first lacustrine occupation belonging to Notches and Denticulates Mesolithic in the Iberian Peninsula. In this paper we present chronostratigraphical and palaeoenvironmental data along with material culture, subsistence and habitat record. The whole information is discussed in the context of cultural processes and environmental dynamics that took place along Early and Middle Holocene transition in the Iberian Mediterranean region. The results point out an advanced chronology in the Notches and Denticulates Mesolithic period and situate the occupation in one of the most humid periods during the Holocene.

Key words: Notches and Denticulates Mesolithic. Iberian Peninsula. Palaeoenvironment. Open-air settlement.

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*Juan F. RUIZ LÓPEZ** and *Càrol ALLEPUZ GARCÍA***. * Departamento de Historia. Facultad de Ciencias de la Educación y Humanidades. Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha. Avda. de los Alfares, 42. 16071 Cuenca. Correo-e: jfrui@jfrl.jazztel.es; juanfrancisco.ruiz@uclm.es. ** Asociación de Amigos del Parque Cultural de la Valltorta/Gasulla y su Museo

Levantine rock-art figures with antennae headdresses from Cova dels Rossegadors (La Pobla de Benifassà, Castellón) and their interpretation in a rite of passage

Zephyrus, LXVIII, July-December 2011, pp. 115-138

This paper focuses on two unknown Levantine art anthropomorphs with antennae headdresses from Cova dels Rossegadors, and in the other figures with antennae headdresses of this rock art site. We raise the hypothesis that the antennae headdresses of these two pictographs were intentionally hidden. The concealment of peculiar features such as headdresses has never been reported before in Levantine art. We argue that the anthropomorphs with antennae headdresses of this site can be interpreted as the narration of a rite of passage. Some of the physical features of the panel suggest that they were used as a representation of the surrounding landscape. The indicated pictographs, included in the tale of young men being incorporated into adult society, would contribute to the stability and to keep the social order of the human group that produced these images.

Key words: Cova dels Rossegadors. Levantine art. Antennae headdresses. Hiding. Rite of passage. Social identity.

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Enrique CERRILLO CUENCA. Instituto de Arqueología - Mérida (CSIC)

Approaches and new data on the interpretation of prehistoric landscapes from the River Tagus sector of Extremadura (Spain): the Alconétar area

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The Neolithic and Chalcolithic settlement of the inner area of Tagus at Extremadura region (Spain) was often defined by the megalithic tombs spread along the region. In the present time some statements about the

territorial behaviour of prehistoric societies are being revised, and consequently the landscape dimension of megalithic sites. In this context we present the preliminary results of a research project focused on the surface survey of the margins of Tagus River, where we have been working in two different, but near, sectors. In this paper we present an assessment of the first results of the surveys, that have varied the picture of an area just defined by the presence of megalithic tombs.

Key words: Neolithic. Copper Age. Megalithic sites. Tagus River. Cáceres province. Settlement. Rock art.

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Martín ALMAGRO-GORBEA, Mariano TORRES ORTIZ, Antonio GÓMEZ RINCÓN and Sofía HERNÁNDEZ VIVANCO. Departamento de Prehistoria. Universidad Complutense de Madrid. E-28040 Madrid. Correo-e: anticuario@rah.es

The staff of the Tartessian palace of Cancho Roano (Badajoz, Spain)

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Analysis of the habitants of the *regia* or fortified palace of Cancho Roano (Badajoz, Spain), a dynastic rural residence fortified in the 6th century BC. It had public, ritual and administrative functions and it controlled the local handicrafts and agricultural production, as centre of a *fundus* of about 3000 ha, identified by its natural geographical limits.

The analysis is based in a comparative archaeological study of the palatial architecture, the material culture and its parallels in rural fortified palaces in the Near East and the Mediterranean area in Antiquity. The building offers areas with different functions: the rooms of the dynast, magazines, hall of audience, a dynastic sanctuary and a hypothetical harem. The analysis confirms the economical, social and ideological activities of the Tartessian palatial system and opens new paths for the knowledge of the socio-cultural structure of the Pre-Roman cultures in Iberia.

Key words: Iron Age. Mediterranean colonizations. Palatial architecture. Palatial society. Pre-Roman society. Pre-roman Hispania. *Latifundium*.

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Fernando PRADOS MARTÍNEZ. Universidad de Alicante

The eastern necropolis of *Baelo Claudia* in the context of Punic-Mauritanian religion. A reading from the last archaeological works

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A new study of the oriental necropolis of *Baelo Claudia* (Tarifa, Cádiz) is approached in this work. This taking into account new digs and re-interpretation of old works. As a result, new readings in funerary landscape, religiosity, ethnicity, architectonical typology, materials and goods are proposed.

Key words: Roman necropolis. Numidians. *Mauri*. *Tingis*.

622 (460.352) “626”

*Luis ARBOLEDAS MARTÍNEZ**, *Jean-Marc FABRE*** and *Julien MANTENANT****. * Miembro del Departamento de Prehistoria y Arqueología de la Universidad de Granada. Facultad de Filosofía y Letras. Campus de la Cartuja, s/n. 19071 Granada. Correo-e: arboledas@ugr.es. ** Ingénieur de recherches CNRS del Laboratoire TRACES-UMR 5608. CNRS-Université de Toulouse II-Le Mirail et INRAP. Maison de la Recherche. 5 allées Antonio-Machado. F-31058 Toulouse, Cedex 9, Francia. *** Becario predoctoral de la Université de Toulouse II-Le Mirail en el Laboratoire TRACES-UMR 5608. CNRS-Université de Toulouse II-Le Mirail et INRAP. Maison de la Recherche. 5 allées Antonio-Machado. F-31058 Toulouse, Cedex 9, Francia

First archeological exploration of the Roman mines of Sierra Morena: El Centenillo (Baños de la Encina, Jaén)

Zephyrus, LXVIII, July-December 2011, pp. 211-228

At the mining area of El Centenillo (Baños de la Encina, Jaén) during several archaeological superficial studies and surveys a great amount of ancient fossilized miners works remains have been found inside the “socavones” (mines entrances) and “rafas”. Nevertheless, the insider part of the mine has not been studied yet. Therefore, in September 2010 we decided to carry out the first archaeological exploration. The main goal of this exploration was to document and identify those ancient subterranean works in order to identify them from the most modern and contemporary that could have been still intact. This first campaign was done at the same time as the archaeological excavation of the Bronze Age site of Peñalosa. Such work has been focussed in the exploration and the examination of the ancient mining works at the double vein of Mirador-Pelaguindas as well as in the South and its respective Northern veins and the results of it can be found in this paper.

Key words: Archaeological exploration. Roman mines. Lead-silver. “Socavón” (mines entrances). Extractive mining. “Rafas”. Sierra Morena. El Centenillo.

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Rafael GONZÁLEZ FERNÁNDEZ. Universidad de Murcia. Correo-e: rafael@um.es

The term *origo* in Roman epigraphy

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It is sometimes very difficult to interpret the term *origo*, since it can refer to different elements such as birth, place of origin, family or tribe. From the Republican period the Romans used to include this type of information in their inscriptions after the mention of the name, although, curiously, they did not employ the term *origo* itself, but other forms of expression. In this work we suggest that in Roman epigraphy this term was used, from the end of the Second Century and during the first half of the Third Century A. D., mainly in the times of the Severan Dynasty.

Key words: Term *origo*. Inscriptions. Roman epigraphy. Severan Dynasty.

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*C. GARCÍA MERINO** and *M. SÁNCHEZ SIMÓN***. * Universidad de Valladolid. Correo-e: cgmerino@fyl.uva.es.
** Museo de las Villas Romanas de Almenara. Correo-e: margaritasanchezsimon@gmail.com

A female burial with grave goods at the Roman villa of Almenara de Adaja (Valladolid)

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Recent works in an area placed North from the *pars urbana* of the late imperial Roman villa at Almenara de Adaja (Valladolid, Spain) have uncovered a female burial with grave goods. These finds suggest the likely situation of a necropolis corresponding to the villa lifetime period. We study the artifacts found in the burial. Results of an analysis on the content of a ceramic vessel found there are also given. This finding complements the available data on the distribution and organization of contemporary habitat and adds up to the known information on cemeteries dating from this time period in the Spanish north inner plateau.

Key words: Rural necropolis. Grave goods. Knucklebones. Spinner. Food analysis.